Lowell Public Schools

Strategic Plan Update May 6, 2020

1 + 4 Year Strategic Plan



LPS Strategic Plan 2020 - 2021

Part I) Overview of Strategic Plan:

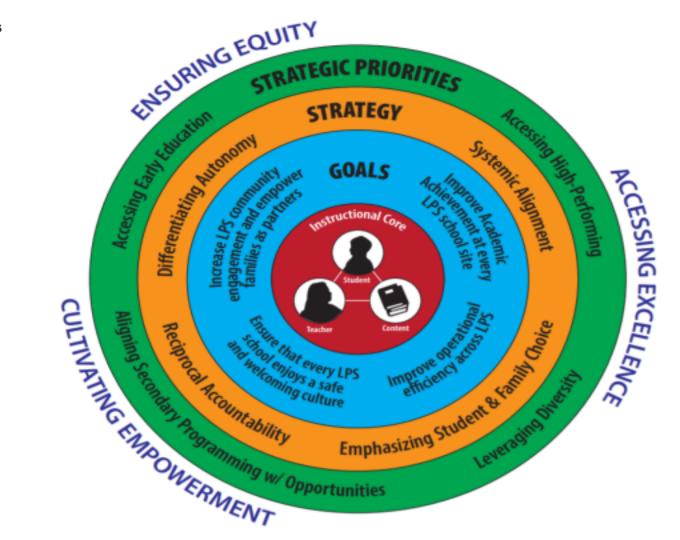
- 1. Components of Strategic Plan and Overarching Goals
- 1. COVID-19 LPS Strategy: Responsiveness and Readiness
 - 1. Actionables/Measurables
- 1. Progressing Monitoring and Key Data, Sample Scorecards





Strategic Planning Initiative:
Developing the 1 + 4 Year
Plan for the Lowell Public
Schools

Planning for a difficult year while laying the ground for future progress.



Strategic Planning Initiative: Overarching Goal Areas

Improve academic achievement at every LPS school site.

Ensure that every LPS school enjoys a safe and welcoming culture.

Improve operational efficiency across LPS.

Increase LPS community engagement and empower families as partners.

These have not changed either.



Strategic Planning Initiative: Developing the 1 + 4 Year Plan for the Lowell Public Schools

In converting from a 5-year planning process to a 1 + 4 year strategic plan focusing on next year's (2020 – 2021) actionable objectives, it is important that the principles of the long-term plan remain intact.

Core Beliefs:

- A high-quality education is a fundamental civil right of every child.
- Teaching and Learning is the core of work.
- Families are and students' first teachers.
- Sustainable school improvement requires hard and steady work over time.
- Every adult in the system is accountable for the success of all students; the entire community is responsible for their success.

Fundamental Commitments:

- Eliminate the racial, ethnic and linguistic achievement and opportunity gaps among all students.
- Provide equitable funding and resources among the district's diverse schools.
- Engage all families with courtesy, dignity, respect and cultural understanding.

Strategy:

- Employing differentiated levels of autonomy.
- Implementing systemic and instructional alignment.
- Empowering students and families through choice.
- Ensuring reciprocal accountability by all stakeholders.

Strategic Priorities:

- Increasing access to early learning opportunities.
- Increasing access to high-performing seats.
- Aligning secondary programming with postsecondary opportunities.
- Leveraging the rich diversity of the Lowell community to serve the interests of LPS students.



Strategic Planning Initiative: Developing the 1 + 4 Year Plan for the Lowell Public Schools

COVID-19 public health crisis and related school closures has altered reality of LPS and the world.

While the 1 + 4 year plan envisions future progress, it is premised on a four-part strategy of COVID-19 readiness and responsiveness.

Physical Health:

LPS facilities will undergo robust disinfectant sanitation and other **enhanced cleaning tactics**.

Strict **hygiene requirements** will be imposed at all grade levels.

Logistical modifications with be made to account for any **physical distancing** strategies advised by public health officials.

Mental Wellness:

LPS will prioritize **trauma informed practices** in anticipation of students' mental health challenges precipitated by or exacerbated by the crisis.

School leaders will be advised on practices to **support both staff and families** experiencing anxiety related to the crisis.

SEL support systems will continue to be emphasized for the purpose of ensuring students' educational needs continue to be met in the wake of the 2020 closure and amid ongoing uncertainty.

Fiscal Prudence:

LPS will conduct itself with **heightened cautiousness** due to revenue uncertainties at both the state and municipal level.

All investments will be scrutinized for implications regarding **long-term goals** and any basis for **immediate urgency**.

Maintaining Flexibility:

LPS will employ strategies to maintain programmatic and organizational flexibility both to meet the needs of students in the wake of the 2020 closures and to ensure maximum adaptability to logistical challenges and/or additional disruptions during the 2020 - 2021 school year.

Increase access to and coordination of **early learning opportunities** for children from birth to age 5 by supporting the work of community partners to ensure that every child in Lowell is academically, emotionally, and socially prepared for Kindergarten. (Priority # 1)

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Improve academic achievement at every LPS school site.	Improve operational efficiency across LPS.	Ensure that every LPS school enjoys a safe and welcoming culture.	Increase LPS community engagement and empower families as partners.
LPS will work w/ EEC and ESE to develop professional development opportunities focusing on support for high-need learners; invite all providers LPS will collaborate work pmmury partners to articulate erroman metrics consistent and the suidance to share and how how how how how to serve learners without preK experience.	LPS will complete the work of the feasibility study contemplated by the January 2020 RFP and determine viable options for expansion of preK selection. LFS we engage all early learning provides to dearm a total static capacity within the Later community. LPS will develop estimated costs and timelines related to internal expansion.	LPS will provide traditional literature and electronic literature and contact information at city and community points of contact for new families. PS will be the period of formulation of the city of the period of the city of the cit	LPS will collaborate with early learning providers to create catalogue of early and education and care options that clearly explains implications of each e. cost, nature of gramming, schedule, calendar, etc. I S will collaborate with early learning to create 2000 Parent & Caregiver Support System as a multiplatform collection of resources and best practices to support new parents. Roll out of system will occur by the conclusion of the 2020 -2021 school year.
 # of providers with whom LPS is actively engaged in a dialogue remetrics. # of PD opportunities pover dialogue. 	- Completion of feasibility study and assessment of external capacity through at Love it. - President of estimate pansions.	 Increased dissemination of inforegarding early education and care. of connentty the by L S elater by lucation and care. Establishment of Prospective Family Council. 	 Creation and dissemination of catalogue of early learning provider options. Creation and roll out of First 2000 arent/Caregiver Support System. System to evaluate efficacy of both.

Increase access for all students **to high performing seats** through the continuous improvement of all schools, the expansion of high demand programs, and an intensive focus on turning around historically underperforming schools. (Priority # 2)

Improve academic achievement at every LPS school site.

Improve operational efficiency across LPS.

Ensure that every LPS school enjoys a **safe and welcoming culture**.

Increase LPS community engagement and empower families as partners.

- LPS will develop a comprehensive strategy for COVID-19 disruptions, including the use of blended learning and the equitable distribution of technology, monitorable learning schedules, and robust family engagement.
- Steering Committee an ingage of a dialogue over the refine on a high-quality in contact with the Portrait of a Grade te initiative.
 Definition will include distinct roles of both SEL and mental health.
- LPS will continue to deploy additional oversight and support to Renaissance Network in order to identify structural barriers and cultivate conditions conducive to continuous improvement.

- LPS will continue building out and employing inclusive school site councils for use in budget development consistent with respective school community needs and priorities.
 - buda for ar comn nica publi ic each b timeli s spe ırd nity re ı 1:1 di comr learn envi nme.
- LPS will identify a technology utilization strategy and begin steps toward implementation, including device transitions and staff training.
- School site councils will be asked to produce facility improvement reports to identify key infrastructure priorities for each school community.

- LPS will continue conducting school safety inspections.
- School leaders will report on strategies being employed to enhance school culture and climate conditions within each school nommunity and beginning as to stare be tractions to the conditions of the conditions within each school nommunity and beginning to save at some and the conditions of the cond
- All LPS staff will undergo year-long professional development focused on culturally and linguistically sustaining practices (cultural responsiveness).

 LPS administration will engage in a community dialogue and convey to the Lowell School Committee recommendations concerning the current school assignment process.

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Increase access for all students **to high performing seats** through the continuous improvement of all schools, the expansion of high demand programs, and an intensive focus on turning around historically underperforming schools. (Priority # 2)

Improve academic achievement at every LPS school site.

- Improve operational efficiency across LPS.
- Ensure that every LPS school enjoys a **safe and welcoming culture**.

Increase LPS community engagement and empower families as partners.

- Production of blended learning plan in anticipation of potential future disruptions due to public health crisis.
- Procurement and use of new data visualization system.
- Portion of professional and velocities programming focused in 2005 competencies and relationships integration.
- Expansion of K-8 enrichment activities including arts and athletics programming opportunities in order to ensure district's programming is equitably allocated across school communities, with a particular focus on a determination of whether feed programming is equitably distributed across LPS for cocurricular programming at the high school level.

- Participation and frequency of meeting data for school site councils.
- Expansion of 1:1 digital learning environments in the context of blended learning and presentation of timeline force uting a hievement of 1:1 at ital learning environments across L. S.
- resentation of technology utilization strategy including costs and timeline of full adoption and training (for staff).
- Production of facility improvement reports identifying key infrastructure priorities for each school community on timeline consistent with Lowell's capital improvement cycle.

- Data related to the completion of all school safety inspections.
- Presentation of best practices identified within specific LPS school communities concerning school culture and climate and identification of the step garge, a replication segment.
- Con retion by I state of aining of culturally and linguistically sustaining practices (cultural responsiveness).
- Development of district-wide and school-based systems for monitoring mental health concerns for students in the the wake of COVID-19 public health crisis.

- Documented efforts at robust community engagement in order to demonstrate community awareness of the implications of potential changes to school assignment processes and presentation of recommendation(s) to the Lowell School Committee.

Increase access for all students **to high performing seats** through the continuous improvement of all schools, the expansion of high demand programs, and an intensive focus on turning around historically underperforming schools. (# 2 Cont.: Objectives specific to English Learners and Special Education)

Improve academic achievement at every LPS school site.

Improve operational efficiency across LPS.

Ensure that every LPS school enjoys a **safe and welcoming culture**.

Increase LPS community engagement and empower families as partners.

- LPS will examine monthly disciplinary and attendance data to determine trends as they relate to disproportionality among high-need students.
- LPS students preparing for transitions between the ages of 18-22 will be afforded more CTE programming opportunities and opportunities to participate in hands on learning within the Locamounity outside of todit and classroom settings.
- LPS will examine and report to the school committee on trends with regard to ELD progression for students.

- LPS will examine on a quarterly basis what transportation systems are in place for students in alternative education settings and determine whether any additional accommodations are being requested and/or can/should be granted.
- LPS will continue to monitor substantially generate learning vironr ants, paticle by ing december 7-12+ to asure and ts for wind inclusion etting are ore opportunities.
- LPS will examine opportunities to expand

- LPS will continue to work with educators, families, and community partners to ensure that inclusive settings are providing comprehensive support to students both academically and socially.
- LPS will gauge interest of families and educators in the possible reinstitution of dual language programming based on organizational capacity and family interest.
- LPS will continue to engage through the English Learner Parent Advisory Council to determine more ways to engage families of Els in ful chool and family partnerships.

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Increase access for all students **to high performing seats** through the continuous improvement of all schools, the expansion of high demand programs, and an intensive focus on turning around historically underperforming schools. (# 2 Cont.: Objectives specific high-need learners, including EL and SWDs)

Improve academic achievement at every LPS school site.

Improve operational efficiency across LPS.

Ensure that every LPS school enjoys a safe and welcoming culture.

Increase LPS community engagement and empower families as partners.

- Reduction in disproportionality in both disciplinary infraction data and chronic absenteeism for both students with disabilities and English Learners, particularly at Lowell High School.
- Participation in 18-22 ye students in employment opportunities that reaches 50%.
- Participation by 18-22 year old LPS students in CTE programming.
- Presentation to Lowell School Committee on trends as they related to ELD progression for English Learners.

- Periodic reporting on initiatives related to transportation for students whose educational needs require them to be offsite.
 - Presentation of trends and plans as they rely to the atic of sildent in bstratia as separate on separate or separa
- Documented engagement with Special Education Parent Advisory Council and English Learner Parent Advisory Council on the social and emotional learning supports being provided to high-need learners with icul tenti foc ec n anv aller es ude ⁴fa lies ing vith re sociar immersion in inclusion settings.
- Documented engagement in discussions with educators and families about possible implementation of dual language programming with presentation to the Lowell School Committee on potential pros and cons of that oice.
 - and tactics of engaging English Learner families and evidence of more robust school and family partnerships.

Align secondary school curriculum and programs for all students with post-secondary opportunities so that they are college, career, and life ready upon graduation. (Priority # 3)

Improve academic achievement at every LPS school site.

Improve **operational efficiency** across LPS.

Ensure that every LPS school enjoys a safe and welcoming culture.

Increase LPS community engagement and empower families as partners.

- LPS will engage a comprehensive redesign strategy centered MassCore and three avenues:
 A) University-level rigor (early
 - college)

 B) Alternative Education Option
 - B) Alternative Education Options (non-trad. environments)
 - C) Career and Technical Education (CTF
- LPS will incorporate staffing and support systems recognizing many students not perfectly suited at present for those three avenues as constituted.
- LPS will deepen opportunities for intra-district collaboration focused on both vertical and horizontal alignment, including among alternative ed.options.
- During redesign process, LPS will consider tactics for rapid reversal of declining graduation/dropout data.

- LPS develop and communicate to community detailed contingency planning for each phase of high school construction project, particularly in the context of COVID-19 responsiveness and readiness strategies.
- LPS II idency prential enamon opportunities egoling ch. certial d CTE ifferences through bother an internal review of spatial capacity and student interest and further engagement with Greater Lowell Technical High School, particularly with respect to any opportunities yielded by the HS construction project.
- LPS will message and promote the concept of LHS as both the LPS flagship and the epicenter of the Lowell educational community.

- LPS will review options with regard to expanded Alternative Education Options programming and communicate about expansion to prospective LHS students and families.
- LPS will continue to reand opport session per to per interestic petwork throughout the students and the second throughout the second to build positive associations with LHS community and develop greater engagement with prospective LHS students.
- LPS will improve coordination of and support for existing LHS partners, including Gear UP, JAG, MassHire, MCC, PALs, and several others.

- LPS will continue to expand partnership opportunities with higher education institutions in the Lowell community for potential career pathways.
- LPS though Steering Committee

 "Ill spage in a community-wide
 ftort to define "student success" in
 of a Graduate initiative that
 based on relevant, 21st century
 and capacities.
- LPS will deepen engage in robust family engagement, particularly through Special Education Advisory Council, to try to reverse troubling data regarding chronic absenteeism.

Align secondary school curriculum and programs for all students with post-secondary opportunities so that they are college, career, and life ready upon graduation. (Priority # 3)

Improve academic achievement at every LPS school site.

Improve operational efficiency across LPS.

Ensure that every LPS school enjoys a **safe and welcoming culture**.

Increase LPS community engagement and empower families as partners.

- Produce timeline and associated costs for comprehensive high school redesign that includes adoption of MassCore, expansion of Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment opportunities, expansion of alternative educational options portfolio, and expansion of career and technical educational programming opportunities.
- Document strategie from rir that LHS students anti-ue h appropriate levels of choice both during and after high school redesign process.
- Documented structured time for intra-district collaboration among elementary school, middle school and secondary educators.
- Present tactics for rapid reversal of dropout and graduation data.

 Present detailed contingency planning for each phase of high school construction project with regard to logistical and educational challenges posed by project, especially with regard to COVID-19 strategies.

Present a de le report on the disciplis S C Lexbans in an igre the portific with region distribute a least some disciplis and the second secon

- Documented efforts to expand dialogue with families of both LHS students and prospective LHS students with regard to educational needs of students who may explore potentially expanded portfolio of alternative educational options.
 - Documented expansion of peer to peer teraction between LHS students and Domesting programming opportunities within LHS.
- Documented exploration of partnership expansions with higher education to realize opportunities for career paths including educator pipelines.
- Completion of community-driven process to define "student success" through Portrait of a Graduate initiative that includes relevant, 21st century skill sets and capacities.
 - Documented family engagement efforts through Special Education Advisory Council, to try to reverse troubling data regarding chronic absenteeism.

Leverage the rich diversity that defines the Lowell community through a fundamental commitment to equity so that all students access the full benefits of growing up in a truly global community. (Priority # 4)

Improve academic achievement at every LPS school site.

Improve operational efficiency across LPS.

Ensure that every LPS school enjoys a safe and welcoming culture.

Increase LPS community engagement and empower families as partners.

- LPS will intentionally commit to celebrating and affirming Lowell's racial, ethnic, and linguistic diversity through culturally relevant and sustaining curricular and programmatic choices across all grade levels.
- LPS will work to ensure that engagement with prolies is effective and core start with the needs of the policy that LPS is serving arough tentor of appropriate staffing support with respect to translation services and family liaison support.

 LPS will work to ensure budgetary decisions are consistent with needs of each school community's diverse population of students and families through site-based budgeting.

- LPS will renew its focus on recruitment and the cultivation of diversity through a multifaceted strategy to deepen its pool of prospective employees.
 - LPS employees will participate in cultural awareness and responsiveness training tailored o early emporanto the organization, in the composition of the organization o
- LPS will improve communications with families and community partners to establish sturdier and more sustainable relationships with both.

- LPS will continue utilization of school site councils in order to cultivate methods of shared decision-making and collaboration with parent communities.
- LPS will continue collaboration with the Superintendent's Steering Committee to ensure iverse community stakeholders aged and providing edback on district decisions.

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Leverage the rich diversity that defines the Lowell community through a fundamental commitment to equity so that all students access the full benefits of growing up in a truly global community. (Priority # 4)

Improve academic achievement at every LPS school site.

Improve operational efficiency across LPS.

Ensure that every LPS school enjoys a safe and welcoming culture.

Increase LPS community engagement and empower families as partners.

- Present exemplars of curriculum artifacts consistent with renewed effort toward celebrating Lowell's racial, ethnic, and linguistic diversity.
- Documentation of staffing structures consistent with the evolving demographics of students and families lang served by LPS.

 Documentation of staffing and programmatic decisions rendered by school communities consistent with the needs of their diverse population.

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- Documentation of efforts to and efficacy of tactics employed to deepen prospective employee pipelines.
- Percentage of LPS employees participating in cultural awareness and responsiveness training and documentation as no training awareness was tallood assist at either the possibilities agreess femployees...
- Documented expansion of communication methods employed and qualitative data regarding responsiveness by families to determine improvement in relationship capacity building.

- Participation and frequency of meeting data for school site councils.
- Participation and frequency of meeting data for Superintendent's Steering Committee.

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Strategic Planning Initiative: Developing the Five-Year Plan for the Lowell Public Schools

Next Steps (immediate)

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Progress monitoring (SY 2020 - 2021)

Next Steps:

- Development of measurables scorecards (examples following) in conjunction with finalization of strategic plan narrative.
- Production of companion literature and electronic platforms to communicate overarching goals and Strategic Priorities.

Progress monitoring:

 Quarterly updates to the Lowell School Committee detailing actions taken in the context of the measurable outcomes presented herein.

Updates tied to academic cycle:

- Summer planning for impending school year
- Convocation school opening, articulation of year's goals.
- State of the Schools: Midyear update to community on progress/challenges
- > Year-end annual report

Improve academic achievement at every LPS school site:

- # early education providers with whom LPS is coordinating its approach to services based on EEC and ESE metrics
- % of Lowell families with whom contact is made
- # of First 2000 Day Parent and Caregiver Support Program is made available.
- % of staff who are confident in the quality and quantity of social and emotional support being afforded to students.
- % of students involved in significant disciplinary interactions and utilization of restorative justice practices.
- % of students developing clear and decisive postsecondary plan
- The reduction and/or elimination of lagging achievement data and disproportionality among all student subgroups.
- Increase in % of students completing MassCore program of studies.
- LHS/District-wide four-year and five-year cohort graduation and dropout rates.
- % of students successfully completing Advanced Placement or Early College programming.

Improve operational efficiency across LPS.

- % of fulfilled facilities and maintenance related priorities identified in schools' annual facilities improvement reports.
- Timeline by which all schools can expect to enjoy a 1:1 digital learning environment.
- Increase in recruitment efforts and the deepening of diverse applicants.
- The percentage of K-8 students participating in extracurricular/enrichment activities.

Ensure that every LPS school enjoys a **safe and welcoming culture**.

- Percentage of professional development time at the school and district level being devoted to social and emotional support practices.
- Reduction of # chronic absenteeism for all secondary students and among high-need subgroups, especially students with disabilities.

Increase LPS community engagement and empower families as partners.

- % of families enrolling in a school/pathway of their choice.
- Increase in # of students participating in # of CTE programs.
- Methodologies utilized to establish regular and substantive communication with families, particularly families of high-need subgroups.
- Increase in stakeholders participating in opportunities to contribute to school communities.
- % of families for whom regular and substantive communication channels are established within the school community.
- # of events that are specifically related to a celebration of the racial and ethnic composition of the school community.
- # in the partner organizations enjoying existing relationships within diverse communities within Lowell.

District - Goals: Academic Improvement

Measures 2019-20	Baseline Data – 3 year Trend			Evidence of Success			
	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	End of Year Target (2019- 2020)	End of Year Target (2020- 2021)	End of Year Target (2021- 2022)	End of Year Target (2022- 2023)
MCAS Growth/Gap Reduction	ELA: 491.8 Math: 492.8	ELA: 492.8 Math: 492.3	ELA: 494.6 Math: 492.8	Target: ELA: 495.8 Math Actus	Target: ELA: 497.0 494.8	Target: ELA: 498.2 Math: 495.8 Actual:	Target: ELA: 499.4 Actual:
School Percentile/reduction tom 19		7		Targo Actu	Tay &	Target: 1 Actual:	Actual:
ELL Abs.	28.1%	6.2%	45.1%	Targe 7% Actual:	Target: 50%	Actual:	Actual:
Early learning enrollment (pre-k?)	566	556	562	Target: Actual: 603	Target: 504 Actual:	Target: 550 Actual:	Target: 600 Actual:
Attendance ADA/Chronic Truancy	Non-HS: 11.7 HS: 23.2	Non-HS: 11.8 HS: 25.5	Non-HS: 12.1 HS: 27.3	Target: Non-HS: 10.8 HS: 23.9 Actual:	Target: Non-HS: 9.5 HS: 20.5 Actual:	Target: Non-HS: 8.2 HS: 17.1 Actual:	Target: Non-HS: 6.9 HS: 13.7 Actual:

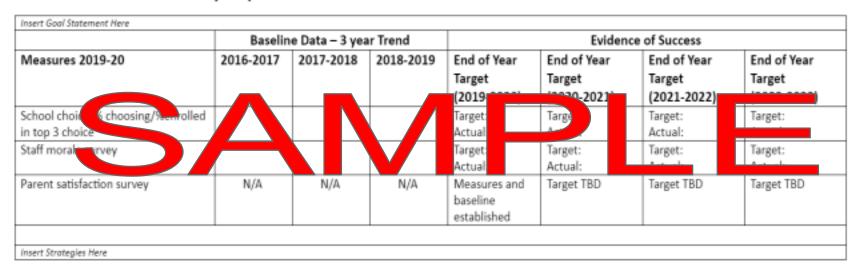
District - Goals: College and Career Access

Measures 2019-20	Baseline Data – 3 year Trend			Evidence of Success			
	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	End of Year Target (2019-2020)	End of Year Target (2020-2021)	End of Year Target (2021-2022)	End of Year Target (2022-2023)
Graduation/Dronout	Grad: 82.4 6.5	Grad: 79.6 Dro	Grad: 78.0 Drop: 8.7	Target: Grad: 8 Orop: 5 Actual:	Target: Orași	Target: Grad: 85.0 Drop: 2.6 Actual:	Target: Orap: 1.4
MassCore Completion				larget:	Target: 59.6 Actual:	Target: 69.6 Actual:	Target: 79.6 Actual:
AP Offerings Enrollment/Scores	N/A	1617 enrolled	1626 enrolled	farget: 1636 Actual:	Target: 1646 Actual:	larget: 1656 Actual:	Target: 1666 Actual:
College Course Enrollment/Credits Earned				Target: Actual:	Target: Actual:	Target: Actual:	Target: Actual:
hapter 74 Enrollment/Certifications arned	128 enrolled	241 enrolled	181 enrolled	Target: Actual: 224 enrolled	Target: 267 Actual:	Target: 310 Actual:	Target: 353 Actual:

District - Goals: Leveraging Diversity

Measures 2019-20	Baseline Data – 3 year Trend			Evidence of Success			
	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	End of Year Target (2030-2020)	End of Year Target (2020-2021)	End of Year Target (2021-2022)	End of Year Target
CLP staff ning/ % train				Targ Actu	Ta) Av	Target: Actual:	Target:
Diversity hiring/staff description aphic/ gap reduces* *dependent we have n	American 33	Af n An can:	Af In Perican	Targ AA:- A: 8:	Farget: AA: 52 A: 102	Target: AA: 61	Target: AA: 70
order to meet target we need to have at least 72 openings (includes all subcategory races indicated) 'not exponential growth-adding 25%	Asian: 66 Hispanic /Latino: 109 White: 1735	Asian: 68 Hispanic /Latino: 102 White: 1736	Asian: 68 Hispanic /Latino: 102 White: 1737	H/L: 128 W: 1754 O: 16 Actual:	H/L: 154 W: 1771 O: 19 Actual:	H/L: 180 W: 1788 O: 22 Actual:	H/L: 206 W: 1805 O: 25 Actual:
or all non-white races and 1% for hite	Other: 9	Other: 13	Other: 13				

District - Goals: Community Empowerment



For additional information and details please see the presentations to the Policy Subcommittee from **April 23, 2020 and April 30, 2020**, respectively.

